IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A protector sheath for a winged needle capable of accommodating a winged needle having a needle tube with a sharp blade edge, a hub firmly attached to a proximal end portion of the needle tube, and a wing provided on the hub, wherein the protector sheath comprises a cylindrical main body having a proximal end and a distal end, at least three slits provided in a side wall of the main body and dividing the side wall into a corresponding number of sections, and wherein each of said at least three slits comprises a proximal end portion having a slot with a closed end and capable of accommodating the wing of the winged needle, a middle portion parallel to the axis of the main body and a curved distal end portion arranged in the side wall of the main body on the proximal side of the distal end and having a shallow V shape or an arched shape formed by a V shape or an arched shape convex portion in one of said sections and a corresponding V shape or [[an]] arched shape concave portion in an adjacent section and opposite the convex portion such that the convex portion and concave portion are interfitting, the proximal end portion of the slit being configured such that it receives the wing so that the needle tube of the winged needle is arranged parallel to the axis of the main body.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein the proximal end portion of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits is provided parallel to the axis of the main body.

4. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein the proximal end portion of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits constitutes only the portion where the wing is arranged when the winged-needle is accommodated in the protector sheath.

5. (currently amended) A protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end portion of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits constitutes only the portion where the blade edge of the needle tube is arranged when the winged-needle is accommodated in the protector sheath.

6. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits further comprises a means capable of effecting

positioning of the wing at the position where the winged needle is accommodated in the protector sheath.

7. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 6, wherein the means for positioning the wing is formed by enlarging the width of the portion of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits where the wing is arranged.

8. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 6, wherein the means for positioning the wing is formed by a protrusion provided on a distal side of the proximal end portion of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits where the wing is arranged.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein ~~a distal end portion of the slit where the slit undergoes a change in direction is~~ the V shape or arched shape convex portion and corresponding V shape or arched shape concave portion are formed so as to be gently curved.

11. (original) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein the main body is connected at the proximal end portion to a holder having an aperture.

12. (currently amended) The protector sheath for a winged needle according to Claim 1, wherein the distal most end of ~~the slit~~ each of said at least three slits is outwardly flared.

13-14. (canceled)